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P R O P O S A L  
FOR FOUNDING A  
MEDICAL LIBRARY;  
AND INSTITUTING A  
S O C I E T Y,  
TO BE CALLED THE  
MEDICAL SOCIETY  
O F  
L O N D O N.

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## MEDICAL SOCIETY

OF

L O N D O N.

## INTRODUCTION.

**I**T is remarkable, that amongst the different associations which have been established in this metropolis, a society for founding a Medical Library, for the use of its respective members, hath been so little attended to. An institution of this kind is so apparently useful and interesting to those who are desirous of obtaining an easy access to the best ancient and modern authors, that it requires no apology for the promotion of the present one, which is designed to supply that defect.

The intention of this society is also to give practitioners in the art of healing, public opportunities of frequently meeting together for their mutual improvement in their profession, and of communicating to the society any new discoveries in medicine which have been made either at home or abroad; or laying before



them any medical papers which may tend to the general advancement of the science.

It frequently happens likewise that difficult and uncommon cases occur, which the practitioner is willing to communicate to his brethren, for their mutual information; by such an institution as this he will always have an opportunity of rendering such cases either the topic of immediate conversation, or committing them to paper, and laying them before the society. And more fully to exercise every part of medical erudition, it is proposed that two evenings in every month be allotted for the discussion of medical questions, propositions, aphorisms, and the like, by way of debate.

Such is the original design of this society, which is submitted to the attention of the faculty in general, whose correspondence and encouragement are solicited, in order to render the plan complete, and carry it into immediate execution.

P L A N

# PLAN OF THE SOCIETY.

**F**OR the better government and conduct of the Society, it is proposed that there be a President, Treasurer, Librarian, Secretary and Council.

## Of the PRESIDENT:

1. The President to be chosen annually; and if present, to take the chair, at all meetings of the society. In his absence, the Treasurer, or Librarian to take the chair; if they be not present, one of the Council to preside; and in their absence, any member may be chosen by a majority of the society, to officiate as President for that meeting.

2. The President is to direct the business of the meeting; to regulate all disputes at the *evenings of debate*, but never to take any part himself, till all the members have done speaking, when he may make his own observations if he shall think proper.

3. All members to pay an implicit obedience to the commands of the President, or his representative, while in the chair, on pain of being expelled.

## Of the TREASURER:

1. The money belonging to the society, to be kept by the Treasurer, who is to be chosen annually.

2. He is to keep a regular account, in a book provided for that purpose, of all receipts and disbursements; and his accounts to be audited, by the Council for the time being, once in three months.



3. He is not to lay out, or expend, any part of the society's money, but what is previously ordered by a general meeting of the society, or by the Council.

4. Whenever the Council, or a majority of the society, desire to see the Treasurer's accounts, he shall deliver them up, and be at all times amenable to the society for any money deposited in his hands, for the use of the society.

## Of the LIBRARIAN, &c.

1. The Librarian to have the sole care of the library, and to be chosen annually. To have the books arranged in a proper order, the folios together, the quartos together, &c. and each volume distinctly numbered. To have an alphabetical catalogue of all the authors, expressing the edition, place where printed, date, size, price, and number as it stands in the library. To keep a distinct catalogue of the manuscripts, ranged under proper heads; such as—Phyfic—Surgery—Materia Medica—Pharmacy—Chymistry, &c. The catalogues to be kept in the library, and to be always open for the inspection of every member.

2. To have a book, containing the names of the members with their places of abode; to mark against each person's name the number of the book received from the library, and the time when; and as soon as returned to draw a line through the number, in the presence of the person who brings the book. To have an alphabetical list of all the names of the members, referring to the pages of the book of *places of abode and books received* from the library.

3. A printed paper to be pasted on the inside of the binding of each book, containing the name of the society, the number of the book, and  
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an abstract of the laws relating to the receiving and returning of books belonging to the library; and if such book were presented to the society, the donor's name to be subscribed by the Librarian.

4. Every member who sends for a book, to write down the title, on a slip of paper, to sign his name thereto, date it, and direct it to "The Librarian of the Medical Society of London." If such book should be lent out, when sent for, the person who shall be appointed to attend the library, is to write on a slip of paper, the time when, the person's name and place of abode who is in possession of it, and give it to the messenger.

5. No member to be allowed to have more, than two volumes at a time, in his possession.

6. The library to be open every day in the week (Saturdays and Sundays excepted) from ten in the morning till eleven, when all books are to be sent for and returned to the library; and none to be given out, or received, before or after those hours.

7. The utmost time for a member detaining a book to be one week for a pamphlet or duodecimo; two weeks for an octavo; three weeks for a quarto; and four weeks for a folio: after which period to be liable to a penalty of one shilling per week, as long as he shall detain such book.

8. The Librarian to have a power to send for any book, which has been detained longer than the time appointed; and if the party detaining such book refuse to return it, to be subject to the penalty of double its value, or be expelled the society.

9. No manuscript to be allowed to be taken out of the library.

10. All new publications to remain in the library, for the space of one month, for the general inspection



of the members, before they be suffered to be given out.

11. All members to have the liberty of visiting the library, and to read or take extracts from the books, or manuscripts, provided such books, or manuscripts, be first applied for to the Librarian or person attending the library; but no member to have a right of himself to take down from its place any book or manuscript, upon any pretence whatever.

12 All books to be returned to the library in the third week of every December, that the *Librarian elect* may see whether any be wanting before he enters into his office on the first of January; and that every person neglecting to return such book, or books, before the twenty-fifth day of December, to forfeit one shilling for every volume so detained.

13. No books to be purchased for the use of the society but such as treat on medical subjects; the purchase of such books to be proposed at a general meeting, and agreed to by two thirds of the members then present. The books to be in good condition, of the best editions, and a list of them to be always previously drawn up by the Council, and presented to the society for their approbation.

### Of the SECRETARY.

1. The Secretary to be elected annually: to minute down all resolutions, &c. at every meeting of the society; to read all papers; and to have the immediate care of all books and writings relating to the transactions of the society.

2. To be answerable for all papers and writings committed to his charge; to keep them in proper order; and to have them present with him at every meeting of the society.

3. To



3. To be careful in dating all papers, on medical subjects, at the time he shall receive them; that no person may be robbed of the title to any new discovery which he might intend to make to the society.

## Of the COUNCIL.

1. The Council to consist of the officers, for the time being, that is, the President, Treasurer, Librarian, and Secretary, together with nine other members of the society, namely, three physicians, three surgeons, and three apothecaries, who are to be elected annually, and to choose a Chairman out of their own body: the officers (as chairmen) to be excepted.

2. Five members of the Council to make a quorum; and a majority of voices to be always necessary to carry any question.

3. The Council, when they have any business to transact, to meet an hour before the usual time of opening the society; or at any other time they shall think most convenient, or as occasion may require.

4. All business, and transactions of the society, to pass through the hands of the Council before they be presented to the society.

5. The Council to put down in writing the heads of the business of each meeting, and deliver the same to the President, or his representative for the time being; for the better regulation and quicker dispatch in their proceedings.

6. The Council may propose new laws, or amendments, but are not to have it in their power to make any; but refer them to a General Meeting of the society.

7. No paper, upon medical subjects, to be brought or read before the society, till such paper has passed through

through the Council; and all such papers to be laid before the society, as nearly as circumstances will allow, according to rotation; that is, according to the time they shall have been received by the Secretary.

8. The Council to have a power to suppress any paper, or part of any paper, which they shall judge improper to be laid before the society.

9. To be sole judges of any question, or paper, which is designed for the subject of debate, both as to the time and propriety of its admission to the society.

10. All complaints to be made to the Council, who are to settle the same, if in their power; if not, to refer them to the General Meeting for their final determination.

### Of electing MEMBERS.

1. All Candidates, for becoming Members of the society, to be recommended by three Members, and their names to be fixed up and remain in the room where the society meets, two weeks before they are ballotted for.

2. The candidates to be ballotted for after reading the minutes of the preceding Meeting.

3. No person to be admitted a Member of this society, who is under the age of twenty-one years.

4. Each Member, upon admission, to pay one guinea into the Treasurer's hands, which subscription is to be continued annually.

### Of HONORARY MEMBERS.

1. No person to be chosen an Honorary Member till two weeks after he has been proposed; his name to be



be fixed up in the room where the society meets, and to be recommended by five members.

2. An Honorary Member not to be liable to any subscription, unless by his own voluntary choice.

3. No person resident in London, or within seven miles thereof, to be elected an Honorary Member.

### Of PAPERS for PUBLICATION, &c.

1. Any Papers, relating to Medical subjects, will be acceptable to the society, and are to be directed to "The Secretary of the Medical Society of London."

2. Such Papers as are deemed worthy of Publication, are to be carefully preserved by the Secretary, till sufficient matter for a volume be collected.

### Of expelling OBNOXIOUS MEMBERS.

1. If any member appear obnoxious in any respect, complaint is first to be made to the Council; if the matter cannot be adjusted there, the complaint is to be brought before the society, and if two thirds of the members ballot against the offending party, he is to be expelled the society.

2. No member, when expelled, shall be entitled to any part of his subscription-money, or receive any benefit from the library.

### GENERAL LAWS of the SOCIETY.

1. All elections to be by ballot, and the candidate having two thirds of the members then present, in his favour, to be declared duly elected.

2. The annual election of the Officers of the society, and of the Council, to be held on the first  
Tuesday

Tuesday of every December, who are to enter upon their respective offices on the first of January following.

3. A General Meeting of the society to be held on every Tuesday evening, and the business of the meeting to begin at seven o'clock precisely.

4. The business of the first and third Tuesdays of every month to be confined to the reading of papers, receiving intelligence, and the current transactions of the society, such as the electing of members, voting for the purchase of books, &c. and all altercation and debate, unless necessity require it, to be immediately silenced.

5. The meetings of the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month to be entirely confined to the discussion of Medical Questions, Propositions, Aphorisms, Cases, and the like, by way of debate; such questions, &c. being previously laid before the Council for their approbation, and to be fixed up in the society-room the Tuesday night preceding, for any member to peruse or transcribe.

6. All speeches to be made to the President, for the time being: and in addressing the chair, the person who speaks to stand up, and continue in that posture till he shall have done speaking.

7. Only one person to speak at a time: and if two members should stand up at nearly one and the same time, and a dispute arise who shall speak first, the President, is finally to decide it, by mentioning the name of the person he would have to speak.

8. No person to speak more than thrice to the same question, or subject.

9. Any member who gives in a paper to the society may if he pleases, when it comes to be presented by the Council, read it himself to the society; otherwise it is always to be read by the Secretary.

10. Any person giving in a paper to be debated upon, may if he chooses, have the liberty to explain  
such



such paper more fully to the society, before the debate begins ; and after he has done speaking, any member is at liberty to rise up, and make his observations on the subject.

11. Each member is requested to give in to the Council, such useful questions, or subjects fit for disquisition, as may occur to him.

12. No resolutions to be valid, which are made at any meeting of the society, unless fifteen members are present.

13. All forfeit-money to be paid into the hands of the Treasurer, for the general use of the society.

14. Any member who is desirous of introducing a visitor, is to write down his name on a paper, which is to be kept for that purpose, entitled, " the Visitor's List," and put his own name opposite to it ; which list, after obtaining the sanction of the President, is to be publickly read at the opening of the meeting by the President.

15. The donation of any single book, or parcel of books, pamphlets, or manuscripts, treating on Medical subjects, to be gratefully received, and the thanks of the society to be given to the donor.

16. The laws and rules of the society to be signed, by every member, on his admission.

*F I N I S.*







